



Photo by Pauline Davis ©

Location - Begins at the Washington state line and follows U.S. 2 to Sandpoint.

Length - 28.5 miles. Allow 40 minutes.

Roadway - U.S. 2 is a two-lane, paved road with no passing lanes. It can be icy during winter months.

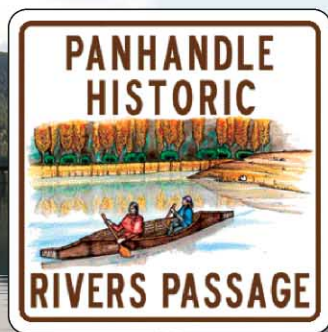
When to see it - Throughout the year. Eagles in the winter, osprey in the summer, waterfowl in the spring and fall. Nature's palette of vegetation colors are particularly abundant in spring and fall.

Special attractions - Pend Oreille and Priest Rivers; Panhandle National Forest; Seneacquoten Interpretive Site; Rotary Park in Oldtown; Priest River Wildlife Area; Albeni Falls Dam Visitor Center; three historical museums; and Priest River's historic downtown.

Camping - "Mudhole" Recreation Area at Priest River and Riley Creek Recreation Area eight miles further west at Laclede; numerous other camping sites within area including beautiful Priest Lake.

Services - Full services in Priest River, Sandpoint, and Oldtown/Newport.

Contacts - Priest River Chamber of Commerce: 208-448-2721, www.priestriver.org; Sandpoint Visitors Center: 800-800-2106; Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce: 208-263-0887, www.sandpointonline.com, www.sandpointchamber.com; Albeni Falls Dam Visitors Center: 208-437-3133; USFS Ranger Station in Sandpoint: 208-263-5111; USFS Ranger Station at Priest Lake: 208-443-2562; International Selkirk Loop: 888-823-2626, www.selkirkloop.org.



Panhandle Historic Rivers Passage

The Panhandle Historic Rivers Passage begins at the Washington state line and follows the northern shore of the Pend Oreille River through Oldtown, Priest River, and ends in Sandpoint. This byway is the southern leg of the International Selkirk Loop which extends into Washington on the west and heads into British Columbia on the Wild Horse Trail Scenic Byway from Sandpoint on the east.

Enjoy driving along miles of soothing river scenery that reflects the pastoral beauty of surrounding forests and farms. Pull over and be entertained by varying seasonal wildlife, birds of prey, and waterfowl; or stop and absorb the history of northern Idaho in three different museums along the byway. This history extends back to the ice age and the Great Missoula Floods. Convenient access to the Pend Oreille River at four recreation areas provides opportunities to swim or boat along spacious, gently-flowing waters. Winter recreation includes snow sports on state and federal lands, ice fishing when it is cold enough, and downhill skiing at Schweitzer.

